

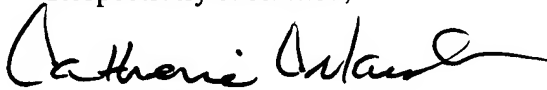
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this Application and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Claims 29-33 have been withdrawn. Claims 3-28 are allowed, Claims 2-5, 6-7 and 10-11 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Applicant has amended the claims with allowable subject matter in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Applicant has also amended claim 2, 7 and 26 to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. The withdrawn claims and claims rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been canceled.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (707) 543-0221.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine C. Maresh
Reg. No. 35,268

Medtronic Vascular, Inc.
3576 Unocal Place
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Fax: (707) 543-5420